



**2015 SESSION**

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS**

**Business Page**

**[Signed by Chairman]**

**Roll Call**

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Tabled Bills**

**Fiscal Reports**

**Rolls Call Votes**

**Proxy Forms**

**Visitor Registrations**

**\*Any other documents, which were submitted after the committee hearing has ended and/or was submitted late [within 48 hours], regarding information in the committee hearing.**

**\*Witness Statements that were not presented as exhibits.**

**Montana Historical Society Archives**

**225 N. Roberts**

**Helena MT 59620-1201**

**2015 Legislative**

**E-Document Specialist Susie Hamilton**

**BUSINESS REPORT**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**HOUSE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE PLANNING**

**Date:** Friday, January 16, 2015  
**Place:** Capitol

**Time:** 8:00 AM  
**Room:** 317B

**BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:**

HB 5 - Provide for infrastructure development - Rep. Jeffrey Welborn

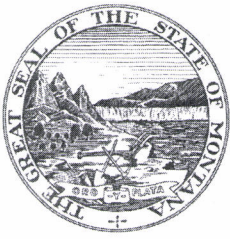
**EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:** None

**Comments:**

Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) and Renewable Resource Grant  
and Loan (RRGL) Program Combined Project Hearings  
Renewable Resource Grant and Loan (RRGL) Program Introduction  
Renewable Resource Grant and Loan (RRGL) Program Infrastructure Projects Hearings

  
A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mike Cuffe", is written over a horizontal line.

REP. Mike Cuffe, Chair



*The Big Sky Country*

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### LONG-RANGE PLANNING

### SUBCOMMITTEE

### ROLL CALL

DATE Jan. 16, 2015

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT/EXCUSED
REP. MIKE CUFFE, CHAIRMAN	✓	
SEN. RICK RIPLEY, VICE CHAIRMAN	✓	
REP. DAVE HAGSTROM	✓	
REP. RAE PEPPERS	✓	
SEN. JON SESSO		✓
SEN. CARY SMITH	✓	
REP. MITCH TROPILA	✓	

7 MEMBERS

**Smith, Pam**

EXHIBIT

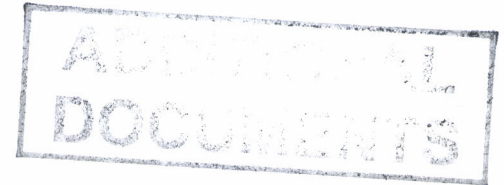
DATE

JAN. 16, 2015

HB

5

**From:** Gary Giem <giem@3rivers.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 16, 2015 3:42 PM  
**To:** Smith, Pam  
**Subject:** Smith Slough/Smith Ditch Fisheries Enhancement



Pam Smith  
RRGL Program Manager, DNRC/CARDD

Pam, would you please submit the following comments to Committee.

The Ruby Valley Conservation District submitted a request to fund the SmithSlough/Smith Ditch Fisheries Enhancement because the project should provide significant benefits to the Lower Big Hole River fishery. Some of the benefits Include the following:

Significant spawning habitat will be provided. There are no tributaries in this portion of the Big Hole River. Similar projects on the Beaverhead River are functioning well'

An agreement with irrigators will conserve water. ( 3 cfs rather than 15 cfs)

Changes in irrigation practices will reduce warmed waters being returned to the River.

Our Board of Supervisors would like to thank you for your consideration of this project. The spawning habitat provided will be very significant to the Lower Big Hole River.

We regret that no one was able to testify in person, since most of us are busy calving.

Respectively Submitted,

Gary Giem  
Chairman - Ruby Valley Conservation District

**TOWN OF FLAXVILLE**

**PO BOX 62**

**FLAXVILLE, MT 59222**

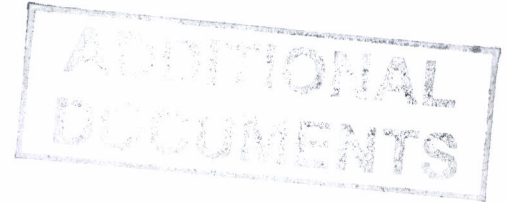
**EXHIBIT** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** Jan. 16, 2015

**HB** 5

January 19, 2015

Long Range Planning Committee  
Representative Mike Cuffe, Chairman  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400



Representative Cuffe:

As you know, the Town of Flaxville has submitted applications to the Department of Commerce for both water and wastewater system improvements for this current funding cycle. A town representative testified on Thursday to communicate the benefits of the TSEP and DNRC-RRGL funding programs to the Town.

Flaxville is a small community in northeast Montana that, like many of our neighboring communities, needs to complete extensive water and wastewater upgrades to keep our systems in good working order. Our water system is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of a 4-phase plan to upgrade all facets of the system. The TSEP and DNRC-RRGL funding programs are not only crucial to our success, but are a necessity to keep our water and wastewater rates at a level where residents can afford them. As it is now, the Town will be paying upwards of 125% of the target rate for water and sewer when the projects are completed. Without TSEP and RRGL funding, our rates would exceed 240% of the target rate.

The Town of Flaxville is very grateful for the TSEP and RRGL funding programs and their continued investment in our region.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Town of Flaxville

Julie French  
Town Clerk  
406-783-8125



EXHIBIT

DATE

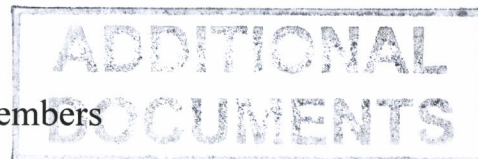
JAN. 16, 2015

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MONTANA JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON LONG RANGE PLANNING

JANUARY 16, 2015



TO: Chairman Mike Cuffe, and Committee Members

FROM: Pat Byrne, Clinton Irrigation District

SUBJECT: Renewable Resource Grand and Loan Program

Good morning, my name is Pat Byrne and I am one of the three Commissioners of the Clinton Irrigation District (CID). Our District is located approximate 20 miles East of Missoula and provides water to the agricultural properties surrounding the Clinton area. The Clinton District was created in 1919 and involves approximately 7 miles of main canal and a series of lateral ditches serving croplands, the Clinton School grounds and several Subdivisions that have developed over the years.

This is not our first appearance before your committee. In 2007 the District obtained DNRC grant funds to conduct an inventory and rehabilitation assessment of the District's infrastructure. Upon completion of that survey a priority list was created addressing several problems within the system that needed attention for operational efficiency and water conservation. This assessment also provided the basis for future planning and development within the CID. The District has completed the top three priorities identified on that list, made possible only through funding by the Renewable Resource Grant Program. The next issue facing our District is to improve the infrastructure and rehabilitate the main canal wasteway structure.

The proposed project has addressed issues of water conservation, operational efficiency, safety, fish, wildlife and crop production. The current structure was built in 1982 and consists of two 36-inch CMP culverts with check rails welded to the front of each culvert. Wood boards are slid into the check rails to raise water levels for diversion to the main canal, and excess water spills over the boards and flows back to the Clark Fork River. This system can be extremely dangerous for the operator who must get into the moving water in order to set in place and remove the check boards. In addition the bottoms of the two control culverts have rusted out resulting in the need for additional flows to be taken from the Clark Fork River diversion. The erosion and water loss under this structure is estimated to be

( )

15% of the District's allowable water supply and places an additional financial burden on the members due to rationing.

The primary objective of replacing the wasteway structure is to preserve continued operation of the District's irrigated acreage while promoting conservation of Montana's natural resources in the Clark Fork River. Implementation of the proposed wasteway structure and improvements will achieve the following objectives:

1. Conserve over 450 million gallons of water in the Clark Fork River per year.
2. Increase the Districts water volume by 80 million gallons per year by lining a portion of the main canal above the wasteway and to eliminate the current water loss under the existing structure.
3. Reduce stress on the fish populations in the Clark Fork River.
4. Protect residential homes by reducing the risk of flooding.
5. Increase the safety of operating and maintaining the structure.
6. Increase crop yields by providing sufficient water when needed.
7. Increasing operational effectiveness and reducing operation costs.

WWC Engineering Company was selected to work with us for the design and analysis of this project. Several designs were examined in detail before making a final judgment. As shown in our RRGL application, Alternative #3 became the most viable option for this project, it is the most cost effective, will conserve and preserve Montana's natural resources and has the most positive impacts on the Districts operations.

To conclude, we are extremely grateful to the State of Montana, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Long Range Planning Subcommittee for your assistance in the past and for your consideration and cooperation of this project.

Respectfully Yours,

Pat Byrne, Commissioner  
Clinton Irrigation District  
18181 E. Mullan Road  
Clinton, Montana 59825



# Montana State Legislature

## Addition Documents

This is a booklet that has applicable information for this committee hearing, it was presented after the meeting ajorned.

This is a booklet entitled:  
Monitana Statewide Water and Wastewater  
Rate Study  
2014

**It cannot be scanned.  
The original exhibits are on file at  
the Montana Historical Society and  
may be viewed there.**

**Montana Historical Society  
Archives  
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2015 Legislative E-Document Specialist Susie Hamilton**